

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 07624

E.O. 11652: GDS
TABS: NPG, MNUC, NATO
SUBJECT: NPG: QUESTION OF HLG AND PHASE III STATUS --
ADDRESSING THE DRAFT NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA

REF: (A) USNATO 7432 (DTG: 041748Z AUG 78) (NODIS)
(B) STATE 200052 (DTG: 082029Z AUG 78)
(C) USNATO 7204 (DTG: 271010Z JUL 78)
(D) USNATO 6491 (DTG: 291923Z JUN 78)
(E) USNATO 7596 (DTG: 111743Z AUG 78)

1. REGARDING THE DRAFT NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA (REF E),
WE NOTE THAT ITEM II B (HLG DISCUSSIONS) AND ITEM
IV A (PHASE III PROGRESS REPORT), BOTH COVER ITEMS THAT
WILL REQUIRE SOME EARLY MOVEMENT BY THE US ON RELEASE
OF AN HLG DISCUSSION PAPER AND THE INFORMAL PHASE III
DRAFT IF THESE ARE TO REMAIN SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS.
GIVEN THEIR KEEN INTEREST IN BOTH SUBJECTS OUR ALLIES
WILL BE CAREFULLY ATTUNED TO HOW WE COMMENT ON THE
DRAFT AGENDA. IN ANY CASE, AT THE NEXT NPG STAFF GROUP
MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 21 AUGUST, WE EXPECT THAT INITIAL
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DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA WILL AGAIN SPARK QUERIES
ON THE STATUS OF BOTH ITEMS.

2. IT WOULD ALLAY THE GROWING SENSE OF ALLIED UNEASE
ON THESE MATTERS IF WE COULD SHOW SOME "FORTHCOMINGNESS"
ON ONE OR BOTH ITEMS BY THEN. A COMMITMENT TO MORE
DEFINITIVE TIMING FOR THE CIRCULATION OF BOTH THE PHASE

III DRAFT AND THE HLG DISCUSSION PAPER WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL. AS OF NOW, ALL WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL THE ALLIES ON THE TIMING OF BOTH ITEMS HAS CONVEYED A LARGER MARGIN OF UNCERTAINTY THAN THEY WOULD HAVE LIKED, AND ABOUT WHICH THEY ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE UNEASY AS TIME GOES ON (REF C).

. A. ON PHASE III, THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD ONLY THAT WE WERE AWAITING WHAT WE HOPED WOULD AMOUNT TO A FAIRLY BRIEF, INFORMAL WORKING-LEVEL WASHINGTON STAFFING OF THE UNOFFICIAL DRAFT PREPARED HERE IN THE MISSION (REF C, PARA 15). THE ALLIES HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT THE UNOFFICIAL MISSION DRAFT WAS COMPLETED IN EARLY JULY.

. B. REGARDING THE HLG, THE ALLIES HAVE BEEN TOLD ONLY THAT IT SHOULD MEET "IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER", BUT THAT WE COULD NOT FIRMLY STATE WHEN THE US WOULD HAVE A PAPER (REF D).

3. REGARDING THE STATUS OF HLG WORK AND THE QUESTION OF INFORMING ALLIES ABOUT THE "INTERAGENCY STUDY" ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS (REFS A AND B), WE INTEND TO DRAW ON GUIDANCE IN REF B IN GIVING A LOW-KEY RESPONSE AT THE STAFF GROUP MEETING SHOULD THAT QUESTION ARISE.

4. ACTIDN REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE PRIOR TO 21
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AUGUST STAFF GROUP MEETING. GLITMAN

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Message Attributes

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